

Annotations.

ARMY COOKERY CONTESTS.

Lord Roberts, with a characteristic appreciation of the value of practical knowledge to the Army which he commands, has consented to allow the troops in London to take part in the Army cookery contests at the forthcoming Cookery and Food Exhibition. That "man is master of his fate" is true only so long as his physical condition is up to the mark, and it is an undeniable, if humiliating, fact, that after a few hours have elapsed, especially if those hours have been occupied in hard work, a feeling of exhaustion supervenes, and food must be taken into, and absorbed by, the system, if physical and mental faculties are to be maintained unimpaired. It is, therefore, of supreme importance to our Army not only that the commissariat should be effective, but also that Tommy Atkins should be acquainted with the best methods of dealing with the bully beef and other rations doled out to him so that he may serve them in an appetising and readily assimilable form. A competent knowledge of elementary cookery is, therefore, a valuable asset in the equipment of a soldier, and the Commander-in-Chief has shown his usual wisdom in permitting the troops to take part in Army Cookery Contests, and has thus given his official encouragement to a spirit of wholesome rivalry in the culinary art.

THE EARLY TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES.

It is somewhat strange that mental disease, which before all other disorders should be taken in hand in an early stage, should be one for which no out-patient department is provided in hospitals and asylums, and consequently patients of the poorer classes must go without advice until the malady is sufficiently advanced to qualify them for admission to an asylum, when the cure is correspondingly difficult. At present the West Riding Asylum at Wakefield, and St. Thomas' Hospital, London, are the only institutions which maintain an outdoor department for sufferers from mental disorders, and the results shown have been eminently satisfactory. The Committee of the Dorset County Asylum have now resolved to follow their example, and it is possible that the London County Council may do something in the same direction.

THE WORLD'S PROGRESS.

Professor E. E. Dolbear, of the United States, gives, in an American contemporary, an interesting summary of the progress which has taken place during the nineteenth century. Here are some of the contrasts which show the march of progress, and which afford food for thought as to where the close of the twentieth century may find the world:—

This century received from its predecessors the horse. We bequeath the bicycle, the locomotive, and the automobile.

We received the goose-quill, we bequeath the fountain pen and typewriter.

We received the scythe, we bequeath the mowing machine.

We received the sickle, we bequeath the harvester.

We received the hand printing press, we bequeath the Hoe cylinder press.

We received the painter's brush, we bequeath lithography, the camera, and colour photography.

We received the hand loom, we bequeath the cotton and woollen factory.

We received gunpowder, we bequeath nitroglycerine.

We received twenty-three chemical elements, we bequeath eighty.

We received the tallow dip, we bequeath the arc light.

We received the galvanic battery, we bequeath the dynamo.

We received the flint lock, we bequeath automatic Maxims.

We received the sailing ship, we bequeath the steamship.

We received the beacon signal fire, we bequeath the telephone and wireless telegraphy.

We received leather fire-buckets, we bequeath the steam fire-engine.

We received wood and stone for structures, we bequeath twenty-storied steel buildings.

We received the stairway, we bequeath the elevator.

We received ordinary light, we bequeath the Röntgen rays.

We received the weather unannounced, we bequeath the weather bureau.

We received unalleviable pain, we bequeath asepis chloroform, ether, and cocaine.

We received the average duration of life of thirty years, we bequeath forty years.

And in spite of all the advances of science we are beginning dimly to recognise that the immense forces stored up in electricity for the service of the world, when reverent hands have wrested her secrets from Nature, remain, as yet, unexplored. We can only guess at the possibilities which in this, and many other directions, await revelation when a master mind has solved the problems which at present veil them from our gaze.

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